

## A G E N D A



## Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	41413	Agenda Number	7.
Meeting Date:	2/26/2015		Department:	Legal
Subject				
<p>Authorize negotiation and execution of a legal services agreement with Webb &amp; Webb, Attorneys at Law, for legal representation, advice, and counsel relating to the administrative appeal to the Public Utility Commission of Texas of retail water and wastewater rates charged to customers within River Place, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$777,000.</p>				
Amount and Source of Funding				
<p>Funding in the amount of \$777,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Operating Budget of Austin Water Utility.</p>				
Fiscal Note				
<p>Funding in the amount of \$777,000 is available and there is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.</p>				
Purchasing Language:				
Prior Council Action:				
For More Information:	D. Clark Cornwell, Assistant City Attorney, (512) 974-6482			
Boards and Commission Action:				
MBE / WBE:				
Related Items:				
Additional Backup Information				
<p>Ratepayers within the River Place area have filed a petition with the Public Utility Commission of Texas challenging their City of Austin water and wastewater rates. The City of Austin does not face utility rate legal challenges with great frequency. However, utility rate cases are highly technical and therefore require specialized knowledge and experience with the administrative proceedings before the state regulatory agency.</p> <p>The Webb and Webb law firm has extensive experience with contested case proceedings before both the PUC and the state office of administrative hearings. Further, the firm is able to draw upon nationally recognized consultants and experts for the defense of the City's rate structure.</p> <p>The Law Department has determined that in order to most diligently represent the City in the matter, the City should engage special outside legal counsel. The Law Department recommends that the City engage the law firm of Webb &amp; Webb to provide the special legal counsel necessary to represent the City in this rate matter.</p>				